

### A Few Facts Pertinent to Large Cents

A complete collection of Large Cents is comprised of 100 pieces, dating from 1793, the first year of coinage to 1857 inclusive. This represents 65 years of coinage and 35 types within those years. Some of these coins are great Rarities. Some of the Rarities are as follows:

1793 Lib. Cap - 1793 Chain America

1799 - 1804 - 1806 - 1809 - 1811 - 1821 - 1823 and 1839 over 36.

If any of these coins are found in real choice condition, they are rarities indeed. The 1793 Lib. Cap in choice condition is worth considerable. One was sold in Phila., in 1910 for \$340. In 1908 an unc. 1804 brought \$200 evenmoney. The 1823 unc. has an auction record of \$200. 1808 and 1821 if strictly unc. are great rarities. A 1793 wreath cent unc. has an auction record of \$530, this being sold 30 years ago. 1806 and 1809 if in top condition are rarer than any 1793 with the possible exception of the Lib. Cap. For the sake of comparison, in 1879 - 63 years ago, an 1793 Chain America unc. sold for \$11.75. An 1847 half cent Br. Proof brought \$8.50 at this sale. In a sale in 1864 held by Woodward, a 1799 cent was sold which was recognized as the <sup>best</sup> ~~last~~ that was known. The L. H. Abbey cents of 1804 also were disposed of. One unc 1804 was among these. One near unc. sold for \$32, a modest price by today's Standards.

One large dealer quite recently sold 3 - 1793 unc. cents for \$1200.

These prices would be proof enough that coin collecting is still being pursued in spite of the War.

Some of the overdates are also very rare items.

An 1807 over 6 brought \$110 at auction 25 years ago.

1823 over 22 is a very rare item in choice condition. Seldom is found better than good.



1839 over 36 is a very rare item. A few specimens are known in unc. condition.

In the Dr. French collection, which was recently sold, there was more than 800 varieties. This collection was in the course of preparation over 50 years. His 1803 Large Date and small fraction was the second <sup>best</sup> ~~least~~ known. It brought near \$300.

Some of the other early dates in unc. condition bring from \$100 to \$300 each.

The 1794 cents are comprised of 59 different varieties. No one person is known to have all of these.

The 1804 is comprised of 3 varieties. The broken die varieties usually bring \$75 to \$100 today in nice condition.

The 1793 cents are very rare.

The wreath type has a lettered edge and the vine and bars on edge.

The Chain America has 5 types, one with the period after the date, one with the period after the word "Liberty", and one with the period after the date and Liberty. One with no periods at all, and the Chain <sup>Ameri</sup> America.

The 1793 Wreath type with the Strawberry Sprig is excessively rare, only 3 specimens being known.

There are many more great rarities in these Large Cents, too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that to obtain a complete collection will entail large cost, great effort, years of preparation, and much pleasure. The real choice coins should be the prime consideration of all collectors in this particular field. There is always a market for a real choice coin, if and when one is interested in selling his collection. Coin collectors should always bear in mind, that the coin in question should always be first thought of as regards to condition. The cost of same should be given second





consideration. Anyone can collect, but only a comparative few can be in possession of a real choice collection.

The writer has been collecting Large Cents 14 years and has found it to be a pleasure. There is much to know, and only through delving into books on the subject, and through personal contact can one gain this knowledge. Type collecting should be left to the specialist. To know type collecting thoroughly, would entail a great deal of study. Since there isn't enough of many of these types of Large Cents to be in the hands of the majority of collectors, the collection is limited to 100 pieces. Most of these pieces are to be had from time to time as collectors are continually selling theirs at auction.

As I said before, the Dr. French collection had over 800 varieties. I think this was the second largest collection of Large Cents ever assembled.

In closing let me say, the greater the knowledge one has in their particular field, will enable one to be in possession of a collection that the novice cannot reach. The remuneration shouldn't be counted in the terms of dollars and cents in preference to the pleasures derived. All through the years the Large Cents have held their value, while other denominations of collecting have not enjoyed this reputation. In spite of the War, coin collecting is still holding its own. Also let's hope after the Buying of Bonds we'll still have a few cents left to buy a few choice coins.

Thank you.

